



**Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson
Subcommittee on Forestry**

**To Review the National Forest System: Supporting Forest Health and Confronting the Wildfire Crisis
Opening Statement
May 16, 2023**

Remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you, Chairman LaMalfa and Ranking Member Salinas.

"I appreciate today's hearing and the opportunity to discuss issues before the Forest Service and the Farm Bill's forestry title.

"For many forested and rural communities, our national forests are critically important for supporting jobs, providing a sustainable supply of timber, and promoting forest health.

"Over the past few Farm Bills, this Committee has provided the Forest Service with new tools and authorities intended to allow the agency to better manage. For example, we expanded the Good Neighbor and stewardship contracting authorities, and provided the insect and disease treatment authority.

"We've also used the Forestry Title to encourage new markets through initiatives like the Wood Innovation Grant program and providing incentives to build with wood.

"Along with the restoration work and fuels reduction projects that are underway and urgently needed, another priority should be to increase timber harvesting and get closer to our allowable sale quantity across the national forest system. Doing so will have the dual benefit of supporting forest health and rural economies.

"As we move forward with this Farm Bill cycle, I am hopeful that we can further build on the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bill forestry titles.

"Chief Moore, thank you for being here today. We look forward to your testimony and engaging in a robust conversation on these important issues. I yield back."